

## **Update on Congressional Action**

### **Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service**

#### **Senate Committee Action:**

On Thursday, June 23, 2005, the Senate Appropriations Committee marked-up the FY 2006 agricultural appropriations bill. The Senate mark is \$1,181,849,000 for CSREES, an increase of \$149,150,000 over the FY 2006 President's Budget proposal of \$10,032,699,000 and \$6,038,000 over the FY 2005 appropriation of \$1,175,811,000 after rescission. (The totals for the FY 2006 President's Budget, the FY 2005 appropriation, and the FY 2006 Senate mark include an estimate of interest earned on the Native American Endowment Fund.)

The Senate mark proposes that funding for the Hatch Act, McIntire-Stennis, Animal Health, and Smith-Lever 3(b) and (c) formula programs remain at the FY 2005 appropriated levels. An increase of approximately \$775,000 over the 2005 appropriated level is provided for both the Evans-Allen and 1890 Extension formula programs. No funding is provided for the State Agricultural Experiment Stations Competitive grants program proposed in the FY 2006 President's Budget.

For the National Research Initiative, \$190,000,000 is provided, an increase of \$10,448,000 over the FY 2005 appropriation of \$179,552,000.

Report language indicates that, prior to receiving a special research grant award, "the grantee must provide a report to the Committee that describes the specific research objectives for which these funds will be used, methodologies to measure performance and determine when the research objectives will be met, and the expected date of completion." The language further indicates that, if the purpose of the grant is more long-term in nature, the Committee expects the grantee to pursue funds through other authorities.

Section 709 of the General Provisions limits indirect costs charged against competitively awarded research, education, or the extension grants to 20 percent of total Federal funds provided under each award, except for grants available under the Small Business Innovation and Development Act. The current indirect cost rate is limited to 20 percent.

Section 718 of the General Provisions prohibits the use of funds to carry out the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS). Funds are available for the purpose of administering and conducting oversight of grants awarded and obligations in prior years. Similar language was included in the FY 2005 appropriation.

Senate floor action may occur in late July and this site will be updated accordingly. See the links to the summary tables for CSREES programs below.

## House Action:

On Wednesday, June 8, 2005, the House passed the FY 2006 agricultural appropriations bill. The House provides \$1,145,248,000 for CSREES, an increase of \$112,549,000 over the FY 2006 President's Budget proposal of \$1,032,699,000 and \$30,563,000 less than the FY 2005 appropriation of \$1,175,811,000 after rescission.

The House includes funding increases for the Hatch Act, McIntire-Stennis, and Smith-Lever 3(b) and (c) formula programs over the FY 2005 appropriated levels. The Animal Health formula program is funded at the FY 2005 appropriated level. An increase of \$1,000,000 over the 2005 appropriated level is provided for both the Evans-Allen and 1890 Extension formula programs. No funding is provided for the State Agricultural Experiment Stations Competitive grants program proposed in the FY 2006 President's Budget.

For the National Research Initiative, \$214,634,000 is provided, which is an increase of \$35,082,000 over the FY 2005 appropriation of \$179,552,000. The House continues the proposal in the FY 2006 President's Budget to streamline the budget process by including in the National Research Initiative programs previously funded under Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA).

Section 710 of the General Provisions limits indirect costs charged against competitively awarded research, education, or extension grants to 20 percent of total Federal funds provided under each award, except for grants available under the Small Business Innovation and Development Act. This continues the current indirect cost cap of 20 percent.

Section 719 of the General Provisions prohibits the use of funds to carry out Sec. 401 of AREERA, the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS). Funds are available for the purpose of administering and conducting oversight of grants awarded and obligations in prior years. Similar language was included in the FY 2005 appropriation.

Section 728 of the General Provisions allows for up to 22 percent of the funds appropriated for the National Research Initiative to be used to carry out a competitive program under the same terms and conditions as provided in Section 401 of AREERA for IFAFS. Similar language was included in the FY 2005 appropriation although the House increases the maximum percentage of funds for this purpose from 20 to 22 percent.

The tables in the following sites provide additional information on Congressional action:

- [Research & Education Activities](#)
- [Extension Activities](#)
- [Integrated Activities](#)
- [Outreach & Assistance for Disadvantaged Farmers Activities](#)
- [Total CSREES](#)

The totals on the summary tables include, as appropriate, actual amounts or estimates of interest earned on the Native American Endowment Fund. These estimated amounts are not included in the funding totals in the related link for the [Library of Congress](#).